(b) whether as per the scheme the constructing agency cannot earn any element of profit from the houses, but would benefit the occupants on "No Loss No Profit" basis; and

(c) whether the constructing agency cannot be the permanent owner of houses but will sell them on outright sale or hire purchase basis to its occupants allocating not more than 25 percent houses to its own employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) There is no scheme under Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation to provide direct loan assistance for construction of houses in urban areas for low income groups. However, Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), a PSU under administrative control of this Ministry provides loans to borrowing agencies for eligible housing schemes as per its guidelines. HUDCO has not sanctioned loan to Cantonment Boards at Agra, Meerut, Jalandhar and Dehu Road to construct Low Income Group colonies.

(b) and (c) HUDCO is the financing agency. Actual construction/ allotment is done by the borrowing agencies. The profit/allotment criteria is decided by these agencies.

Poverty alleviation Schemes

1631. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing poverty alleviation schemes;

(b) whether these schemes have helped in bringing the people above the poverty line;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed for eradicating poverty completely; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation has been implementing through the State Governments/ Union Territories, a Centrally Sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme, namely, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India basis, with effect from 1.12.1997, with a view to providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those, who have studied upto 9th standard and secondly, by providing wage employment by utilising their labour for cosntruction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme is funded in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States.

(b) As per the estimation made by the Planning Commission the percentage of the persons living below the Poverty Line in Urban Areas has declined from 32.36% in 1993-94 to 23.62% in 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) In so far as Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation is concerned, no time frame has been fixed.

Inclusion of Cities under Mega City Scheme in Gujarat

1632. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: DR. A.K. PATEL: PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to revised policy the cities having population more than ten lakhs can be included in the Centrally sponsored schemes for mega cities;

(b) if so, the reason why the revised proposal of the Government of Gujarat for including four major cities of Gujarat in the said scheme is pending with Government since long; and